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ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

LETTER DATED 26 JULY 1994 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF ISRAEL TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

I would like to draw your attention to the terrorist bombing of the Argentine Jewish community's offices in Buenos Aires on 18 July 1994.

Shortly before 10 a.m. local time, a bomb weighing at least 300 kilograms exploded at the Argentine Jewish community's office building (AMIA) in Buenos Aires. As of 26 July 1994, approximately 80 innocent people were killed by the blast and 230 injured. Fourteen people are still buried beneath the rubble. The explosion caused the destruction of the AMIA building and damaged neighbouring structures as well. The AMIA building housed the Argentine Jewish Mutual Association, a social service organization, and the Delegation of Argentine Jewish Associations, the umbrella group of Jewish organizations in Argentina. This heinous crime shocked all civilized nations of the world.

In addition to the devastating human loss, the terrorist bombing claimed a heavy cultural toll, destroying literary and historical treasures, including a library and Judaica collection, as well as the 60-year-old archives that recorded the entire history of the Jewish community in Argentina.

This is the second terrorist attack directed against Jewish or Israeli targets in Argentina in just over two years. On 17 March 1992, a bomb exploded in front of the Israeli Embassy in Buenos Aires, killing 29 Argentines and Israelis, including 8 diplomats and staff members, and injuring more than 220 innocent people.

In a typewritten Arabic statement released in the Lebanese cities of Sidon and Beirut on Friday, 22 July 1994, a radical fundamentalist group calling itself Ansarallah, or Partisans of God, claimed responsibility for the terrorist attack on the AMIA building.

An official investigation into the bombing is being conducted in cooperation between Argentina, Israel and others. Initial findings indicate that the same organization was responsible for both the bombing of the AMIA building and the bombing of the Israeli Embassy in Buenos Aires just over two years ago.

This and similar terrorist organizations act in the name of a radical fundamentalist ideology and seek to derail the Middle East peace process. They direct their attacks against innocent human beings, solely because they happen to be Jews or Israelis, or others who are close to them. These organizations are assisted by countries that are known for their opposition to the Middle East peace process and for their support of international terrorism, first and foremost Iran.

Although Iran has never publicly claimed responsibility for the terrorist attacks on the AMIA building and on the Israeli Embassy in Buenos Aires, the investigations into both incidents have pointed clearly to Iranian involvement. Iran considers terrorism an acceptable means to achieve its political ends, and views its opponents as legitimate targets for terrorist attacks. Iran has been and remains a prime sponsor of terrorism throughout the world.

Giving in to terrorism will only encourage more violence and bloodshed. Israel calls upon the international community to cooperate in the fight against the terrorist threat posed by these radical fundamentalist organizations and their sponsors.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Gad YAACOBI
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of Israel
to the United Nations

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LETTER DATED 25 JULY 1994 FROM THE ACTING PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF GERMANY TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

On behalf of the European Union I have the honour to transmit to you herewith a declaration by the European Union on Rwanda, issued on 22 July 1994.

I should be grateful if you could have the text of this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Gerhard HENZE
Ambassador
Acting Permanent Representative

Annex

[Original: English and French]

Statement by the Presidency on behalf of the European Union on Rwanda

The European Union (EU) reiterates its abhorrence at the killings and the plight of millions of Rwandan refugees and people displaced internally, who face a situation of hunger, disease and death. The EU will try its utmost to ease the suffering of the affected Rwandan population and hopes for a general world-wide response regarding support for Rwanda. Apart from the significant bilateral contributions of its member States, the EU has already provided substantial humanitarian assistance, amounting to about 200 million ECUs since October 1993, in favour of the population of Rwanda and neighbouring countries. In addition, the Commission has released over 22 million ECUs in recent days, and is negotiating with ACP States the release within the next week of a part of residual funds from the European Development Fund.

The EU urges countries neighbouring Rwanda to play a constructive role by exercising their influence on the conflict parties to find a political solution to the crisis. In this context the EU takes note of the formation of a new Government in Kigali, which comprises various political groups. The EU appeals to the political forces to work together in the spirit of the Arusha Agreement and calls upon all parties of good faith to participate in a broad-based democratic administration representative of all forces of moderation and commanding the broad support of the Rwandan people. The EU expects that all means will be taken by the new Government to allay the fears of the population and to persuade them to return to their homes. The EU also believes that those responsible for the crimes against humanity of recent months should be subject to due process of law.

It will be a difficult task to bring about national reconciliation, to reconstruct the destroyed physical infrastructure and to lay the ground for a return to normal life for all citizens traumatized by a civil war with unprecedented massacres. The EU is ready to support the new Government in its efforts to rebuild the country. It urges the deployment of the expanded United Nations Assistance Mission in Rwanda (UNAMIR) as rapidly as possible. The EU applauds the untiring work of the non-governmental and United Nations organizations in Rwanda as well as the efforts of UNAMIR and France, which have saved the lives of countless Rwandans.